

(Continued from Page A1)

injuries to beef cattle than to dairy cattle, though. The dairy cows seem content to hang around the barnyard where it's relatively safe, but the beef cattle are used to ranging out into the fields and they get out onto the worst of the ice."

Dr. Miller concurs that the price that the northern Maryland counties will have paid in destroyed livestock is likely to be much higher than anyone could have foreseen. He says that he knows of at least another 50 or more head of cattle that have been destroyed in his end of the state, bringing the total to over a hundred head in just those two areas alone.

Dr. Miller, as well as Dr.

Rosenberger, cites the amount of man hours spent on just trying to save the cattle. He has a number of stories from the "Ice Age", some tragic, some wryly humorous.

He tells of himself and a group of men who spent some two or three hours on one poor cow alone which had gotten down on the ice and, though apparently uninjured, seemed unable to move at all. They finally put bands around her and pulled her out of the field with a tractor. "We fought for what seemed like forever for this cow, and we'd get maybe six inches or so nearer the barn for each period of struggle," he says. "The cow just laid there, so much dead weight and didn't do much of any-

thing. Finally we got her up to where her front hooves were just touching the barnyard where there was good footing... and after all that struggle, you know that darn old cow just got up out of the harness and walked right past us! Wouldn't even look at us."

"Another farm wasn't as lucky, though," Dr. Miller continues, "They had three cows down, and when we examined the first two, they were in bad shape and we just had to put them down. The third cow looked just as bad. She was all splayed out on the ice, with her hind legs just spread out to each side and one front leg bent back underneath her. I was so sure that she had a least one broken leg, if not more, that I just walked back to the truck to get some more stuff to put her out with before I even tried to examine her. When I turned around and started back toward her, I'll be darned if she didn't look right at me, stand up, and start walking! I guess she was more scared of me than she was of the footing, and right about then she had good reason!"

The cattle that had fallen on the ice were not the only concern that Maryland farmers had. There were herds of cows, many of them bred, who could not get out of wooded areas where they had gone to shelter from the weather to get to feed, hay or water. Neighbors of Mike and Carolyn Krome whose Persimmon Tree Farm is in

Westminster had thirty or more head of bred cows stranded on a ridge above their farm. They couldn't get up the hill to the cattle with even their heaviest equipment, and the cows were not about to move at all, being content to stand where they were and eat a little of the seven inches of snow that had fallen on top of the 3 or 4 inches of glare ice on the ridge. After two days of this, and with no break in the icy weather in sight, the neighbors asked if they could take hay to feed their cows from one of the Krome's barns which was on the same ridge as the cows. Mike loaded hay into his farm wagon and took it as far across the icy ridge as his tractor would safely go, and the young men carried it through the fields, bale by bale to

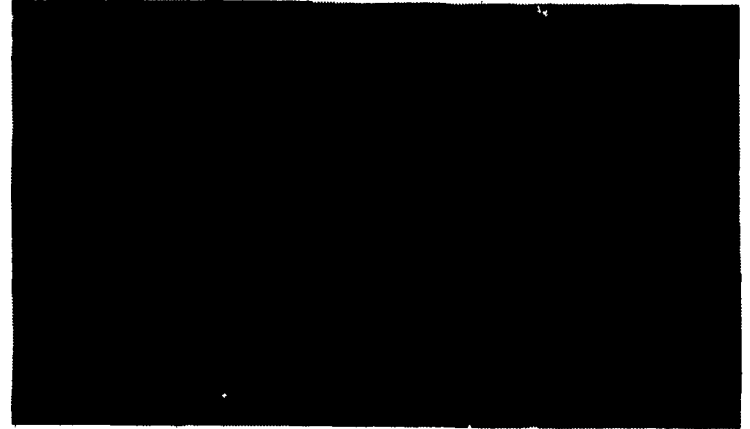
the stranded cattle.

Carolyn says, "It took most of one day just to get enough hay to that many hungry cows, because as soon as the boys got a bale over the fence, it just disappeared! I felt so sorry for the boys... I think they fell down with those bales as much as they stood up, but they just kept on going until all those cows were fed. They were really dedicated."

The weather reports for the next week are calling for clear skies with temperatures in the upper 40's to low 50's for the Maryland area. It may just give the beleaguered farmers of the northern counties a much needed respite to dig out and assess their losses, which right now appear to be severe



Mike Krome of Westminster had to use his tractor to get to stranded Angus cows.



Dr. William Rosenberger of Reisterstown Veterinary Center returns from a day that started with emergencies before dawn.

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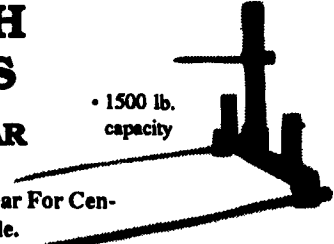
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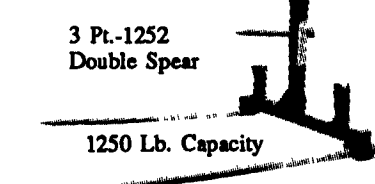
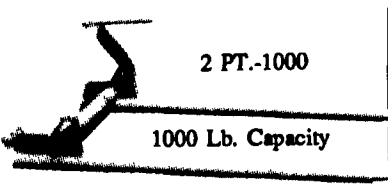
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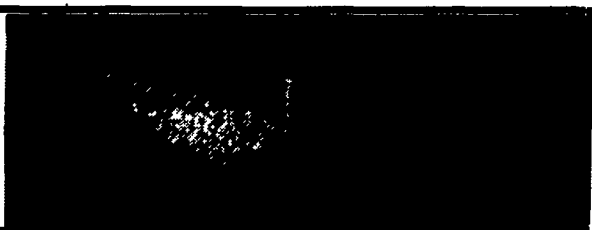


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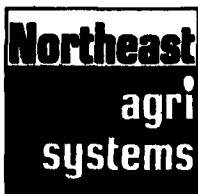


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